



NEWS RELEASE

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT OFFICE

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SBA Begins Search for Outstanding Small Business Owners And Champions for 2005 Small Business Awards

PHILADELPHIA - The Philadelphia District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) invites individuals and organizations to nominate candidates for the 2005 eastern, central and northern Pennsylvania SBA Small Business Awards.

Nominations are being sought for **Small Business Person of the Year**, Phoenix Award (disaster recovery), Small Business Exporter of the Year, Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Family-Owned Small Business of the Year, Small Business Journalist of the Year, Financial Services Champion of the Year, Minority Small Business Champion of the Year, Home-Based Business Champion of the Year, Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year, Women in Business Champion of the Year. Champions are individuals who have fulfilled a commitment to increase opportunities for small business through their business or profession.

“In the past the public has responded to this awards program and we have had fantastic candidates and winners as well,” commented Thomas G. Tolan, SBA District Director. “This past year we were honored to be the home office for the State Small Business Person of the Year, Robert and Joyce Byers of Byers’ Choice in Chalfont, PA. We also had a National Award Winner. Iola Carter, the former director of the Avenue Project, Mt. Airy USA Community Development Corporation, was the 2004 National Minority Champion Award winner. Not only that, but out of the 7 remaining award categories 2 of our local small businesses and champions captured the Regional awards”. “We not only received the fantastic support of our resource partners in this nomination process, but we also received many nominations from those employed by small businesses. We encourage the public to continue to nominate individuals they know again this year.”

Nomination must be forwarded to the SBA District Office by **Friday, December 3, 2004**.

Local award winners will be selected by a blue ribbon panel of economic development professionals, academicians and small business owners. All local award winners are eligible for national competition.

To obtain a **2005 SBA Awards nomination package** detailing selection criteria and step-by-step instructions, contact SBA, c/o Patricia Younce, Small Business Awards Coordinator, 900 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107, call 215-580-2714, or send an e-mail to patricia.younce@sba.gov.

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